

11. (New) A foodstuff according to claim 10, wherein the foodstuff contains 0.0001 to 100 ppm of the flavour precursor.

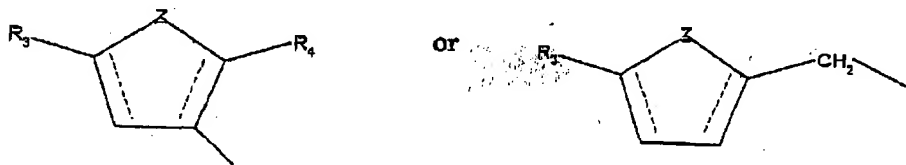
12. (New) A foodstuff according to claim 10, wherein the foodstuff contains 0.001 to 20 ppm of the flavor precursor.

13. (New) A process for flavouring a foodstuff comprising providing a foodstuff incorporating a flavour precursor represented by the formula



wherein

R_1 is a heterocyclic radical selected from the group consisting of



wherein Z is an oxygen or a sulphur atom, R_3 and R_4 represent hydrogen or an $C_1 - C_4$ alkyl group and the symbol $---$ represents a single or double bond,

R_2 is derived from a group of primary alcohol compounds consisting of $C_1 - C_{18}$ alkanols, glycerol and mono-, oligo- and polysaccharides, wherein the oxygen of the R_2-O moiety is attached to a primary carbon atom of R_2 ; and

subjecting the foodstuff to elevated temperature in an aqueous medium such that a flavour compound is formed from the flavour precursor.

14. (New) A process according to claim 13, wherein said elevated temperature is from 70°C to 150°C.

15. (New) A process according to claim 13, wherein the foodstuff incorporates 0.0001-100 ppm, of the flavour precursor.

16. (New) A process according to claim 15, wherein the foodstuff incorporates 0.001 to 20 ppm of the flavor precursor.

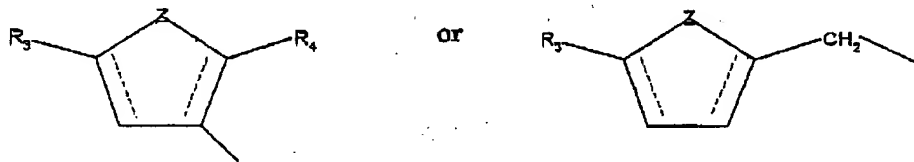
17. (New) A process according to claim 13, wherein the flavour precursor is selected from the group consisting of O-ethyl-S-(2-furylmethyl)thiocarbonate, O-ethyl-S-(2-methyl-3-furyl)thiocarbonate and O-ethyl-S-(2,5-dimethyl-3-furyl)thiocarbonate.

18. (New) A process for preparing a foodstuff containing a flavour precursor, which comprises combining a foodstuff and a flavour precursor represented by the formula



wherein

R_1 is a heterocyclic radical selected from the group consisting of



wherein Z is an oxygen or a sulphur atom R_3 and R_4 represent hydrogen or an $C_1 - C_4$ alkyl group and the symbol $---$ represents a single or double bond,

R_2 is derived from a group of primary alcohol compounds consisting of $C_1 - C_{18}$ alkanols, glycerol and mono-, oligo- and polysaccharides, wherein the oxygen of the R_2-O- moiety is attached to a primary carbon atom of R_2 ; and

19. (New) A process for producing a flavour compound which comprises converting
a flavour precursor according to claim 1 or 2 to the flavour compound.

See Appendix for Amendments.
